

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 were pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 1 and added new Claim 11 to more distinctly claim and more particularly point out the subject matter of the invention. Support for new Claim 11, may be found on page 7, lines 15-16, of the application as filed.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brink et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,639,111 ("Brink") in view of Hess et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,607,619 ("Hess"). The Examiner stated that with regard to Brink, one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that recovering the gases at the first zone of Brink does not necessarily create pollution, especially if the temperature is maintained within the levels taught by the primary reference. The Examiner further maintains that Brink teaches that to preclude the recombination of intermediate products, the temperature needs to be within certain levels to be maintained. The Examiner further noted that Hess teaches the recovery of gases after the pyrolysis, which does not include the release of obnoxious gases into the atmosphere and actually recovers a gas that is a valuable byproduct, dimethyl disulfide. The Examiner maintains that the recovering of the gases at that junction would not go against the teachings of the primary reference because one of ordinary skill in the art would realize the advantages of recovering the gases after pyrolysis.

The Examiner further maintains, with regard to Applicants' argument that the present invention requires two gas streams as opposed to the single gas stream described by Hess, that a combination of the references would have two gas streams, the ones in which the gases are recovered and then the stream in which the coke is recovered, i.e. the sodium sulphide which would be converted to hydrogen sulfide in the absorber.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

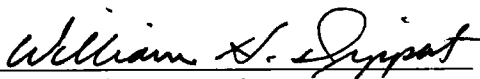
Applicants note that Claim 1, as amended, discloses separation of evaporable compounds from coke, wherein the evaporable compounds contain vaporized water. Neither Hess nor Brink teach the recovery of evaporable compounds which contain vaporized water. Hess specifically teaches away from recovery of such compounds noting that coking should be carried out under sufficient pressure to prevent vaporization of water. For example, Column 2, lines 41-46, of Hess, recites "[i]n the coking drum, organic components of the black liquor are decomposed and dehydrated to a carbonized solid or coke which is discharged at the end of the coking period...."

No combination of Brink and Hess teaches or suggests the method of Claim 1, wherein the evaporable compounds contain water vapor. As such, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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William H. Dippert
Registration No. 26,723

Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis-Cohen LLP
250 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10177-0030
Telephone: 212.986.1116;
Facsimile: 212.986.0604
e-Mail: wdippert@wolfblock.com